

(b) if so, the details of discussion held with his Pakistani counterpart and outcome thereof;

(c) whether the current status of Indo-Pak relations have been reviewed; and

(d) if so, to what extent Indo-Pak relations have been strengthened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) Yes.

(b) to (d) During the meeting the leaders reviewed the current status of India-Pakistan relations. The External Affairs Minister conveyed the sentiments of our Prime Minister that we stand ready to meet Pakistan more than half way to utilise and harness the potential that exists in India-Pakistan relation for mutual benefit while stressing on the need to address centrally the reasons for the stress in the relationship. The primary cause of this is the terrorist attacks on India, by elements based in Pakistan.

Military infrastructure along LAC by China

1374. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of massive buildup of military infrastructure all along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) by China:

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether Government has since taken any steps to counter the attempts of the Chinese Government on LAC; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) Government is aware that China is developing infrastructure in border regions opposite India in the Tibet and Xinjiang Autonomous Regions. This includes the Qinghai-Tibet Railway line, with a proposed extension upto Xigaze and Nyingchi, and development of road and airport facilities.

(c) and (d) Government continues to develop infrastructure in India's border area in order to meet our strategic and security requirements and to facilitate the economic development of these areas.

Fishing rights in Katchatheevu Island

1375. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the correct position *vis-a-vis* the fishing rights of the Indian fishermen, around the Katchatheevu Island; and

(b) whether Government can review and renegotiate the earlier agreements in order to protect the interests of the people and the rights of the fishermen in a changed context and time?